

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for removing folded signatures from a saddle-back conveyor comprising:

a ~~moving~~ rotating arm rotating a full rotation;
a first gripper mounted on the moving arm; and
an electromechanical actuator connected to the first gripper for opening and closing the first gripper, the electromechanical actuator being mounted on the moving arm.

Claim 2 (original): The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a controller sending electronic signals to the electromechanical actuator for opening and closing the first gripper.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a slip ~~or slide~~ contact mounted on the moving arm and electronically connected to the electromechanical actuator.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (original): The device as recited in claim 4 wherein the first gripper is mounted rotatably on the rotating arm and remains in a horizontal orientation relative to a spine of the signatures during a full rotation of the rotating arm.

Claim 6 (original): The device as recited in claim 4 further comprising a second gripper located on the rotating arm opposite the first gripper.

Claim 7 (original): The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first gripper has a first gripper part and a second gripper part movable with respect to the first gripper part for gripping the signature, and the electromechanical actuator includes a cylinder with a linkage connected to the

second gripper part for moving the second gripper part.

Claim 8 (original): The device as recited in claim 7 wherein the cylinder is a pneumatic cylinder and the electromechanical actuator further includes an electronic control valve for providing air to the pneumatic cylinder.

Claim 9 (original): The device as recited in claim 8 wherein the electronic control valve is a solenoid control valve.

Claim 10 (original): The device as recited in claim 7 wherein the first gripper is mounted on the arm at a first axis, and the pneumatic cylinder is fed air via an air conduit entering the pneumatic cylinder at the first axis.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A device for removing folded signatures from a saddle-back conveyor comprising:

a rotating ~~moving~~ arm moving in a reciprocating or rotational movement rotating a full rotation;

a first gripper mounted on the moving arm;

an electromechanical actuator connected to the first gripper for opening and closing the first gripper, the electromechanical actuator being mounted on the moving arm; and

a controller for providing electronic signals to the electromechanical actuator so as to direct the electromechanical actuator to open or close the first gripper during the reciprocating or rotational movement.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The device as recited in claim 11 further comprising an electronic ~~slip or slide~~ contact located on the moving arm and connected electronically to the electromechanical actuator and to the controller.

Claim 13 (original): The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the controller is capable of setting a position of the gripper over a full range of the reciprocating or rotational movement.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for removing signatures from a saddle-back conveyor comprising the steps of:

reciprocating or rotating an arm to move a gripper to remove signatures from a saddle-back conveyor, the arm defining a full rotation range of motion; and

electronically controlling the gripper during the range of motion to open and close the gripper to grip the signature.

Claim 15 (original): The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising adjusting a closing distance of the first gripper as a function of the signature thickness or material.

Claim 16 (original): A signature transport device comprising:

a saddle-back conveyor; and

the device according to claim 1.